LOW PLANT LOAD FACTOR AND HIGH TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION LOSSES

2676. SHRI MULJDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state :

(a), what are the reasons for *low* plant load factor and high transmission and distribution losses in the country;

(b) how these compare with some of the advanced countries; and

(c) the steps taken bv Governa'ent to increase Plant Load Factor and to reduce transmission and disaibution losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The main reasons for low Plant Load Factor in thermal power stations are, short supply of requisite quantity of coal, backing down of thermal units due to low system demand, fund constraints affecting timely availability of spares and other inputs, long time taken for bringing back the units after forced outages and planned maintenance. The reasons for high Transmission and Distribution losses are, inter alia, low investment in sub-transmission and distribution system, large-scale rural electrification programme involving long lines of LT network, low factor of operation, too many transformation stages, improper load management measures, pilferage and theft *ot* energy.

(b) Performance of theirnal power stations in India as Weil as other advanced Countries varies from station to station and depends upon age o| the unit, availability of requisite quantity and quality of coal, maintenance practices system - load condition, hydro-thefmal mix. in the State region and transmission constraints, Therefore, any comparison will be misleading. The average Transmission and Distribution losses in the country are of the order of around 23 per cent as against the TWD losses in other advanced countries of the world ranging between 6—ll per cent.

(c) Various measures being taken for optimum utilisation of installed capacity include Renovation and Modernisation of old units, assistance to Electiifity Boards in undertaking plant betterment program me, supply ot requisite qutantity and quality of coal, training of operation and maintenance personnel and strengthening nf transmission and distribution system. To enable power utilities to take proper measure in a planned way, comprehen sive guidelines have been issued to the power utilities for reducing T&D losses. These include inter alia, conducting of energy audit for identifying, the system elements responsible for excessive losses, installing capacitors to improve the volt age profile, preparation of system im provement schemes for strengthening and improvement of their transmission and distribution system, installin tam-per-proof meter boxes, to check theft of energy and setting up vigilance souads to detect cases of theft of tnergy. The theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence froip August, 1986 under the provision of section 39 of Indian Electricity Act, 1910. To motivate the State Electri city Boards and their employees to reduce T&D losses and to increase the energy generation in thermal power stations separate incentive schemes in the form of cash awards|shields have been introduced.

AMOUNT PAYABLE BY HSEB TO NTPC

2677. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Will the Minister of Power be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount outstanding for payment against the Haryana State Electricity Board to NTPC;

(b) whether the NTPC has decided to stop the supply of power to HSEB thereby plunging Haryana into darkness;